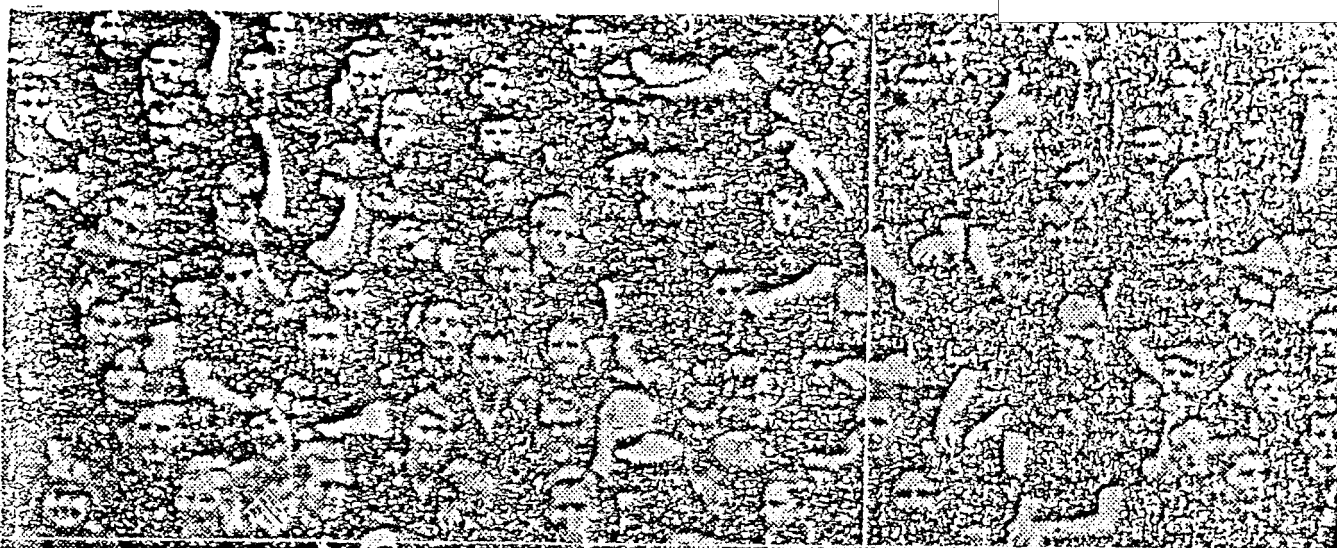


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Midshipmen listen as the CIA director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, opens the Naval Academy's 1977 Forrestal lecture series. Sunpapers photos—Carl D. Harris



ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER fields tough questions about CIA

Middies grill CIA chief

By ROBERT P. WADE
Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—Naval Academy midshipmen last night asked Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Central Intelligence Agency director, a series of tough questions about political assassinations, buggings, intelligence failures and the future of the Navy.

Admiral Turner, who graduated from the academy in 1946 along with his boss, President Carter, was lecturing the brigade of midshipmen on the necessity of learning good "habits of reasoning."

Some midshipmen had obviously thought about the CIA's role in the world.

Showing little hesitancy but sprinkling their questions with "sirs," they asked the admiral about such things as political assassinations.

"We will not do it and have no plans to do it, and have no thoughts about it," he answered.

One midshipman asked him about bugging operations. "We in the intelligence community do not break the laws of the United States of America," he answered.

Admiral Turner took on some questions that caused audible gasps from some members of the brigade.

Only one question seemed to set him back. "That's a loaded question, baby," he said, when asked plans for consolidating intelligence activities, which have become a political hot potato in Washington.

But the director answered it, saying he was in favor of some duplication and divergence in the analysis of intelligence data but also favored more consolidation in the gathering of data.

The event was the first lecture this year in the academy's Forrestal series,

which brings politicians, statesmen, military men and other public figures to Annapolis for a talk and, more often than not, tough questions from the brigade of midshipmen.

But the event was not without its humor.

After telling a joke that fell flat, Admiral Turner remarked that the midshipmen might be in the same trouble as the cadets at West Point, where a recent study found a purported lack of humor.

A few minutes later, a midshipman proved the admiral wrong with a whimsical request for any CIA insight into the upcoming Navy-Duke University football game that brought the house down.

Admiral Turner told the brigade that he recalled attending the Wednesday night lectures at the academy and that one lecture, by a Harvard professor, set him on the path to becoming a Rhodes scholar.

"I wanted to emulate that kind of thinking," he said, urging the midshipmen to think about their futures and the future of the Navy.

"Remember the words of Henry Ford. The hardest thing in life is thinking, that's why so few people do it."

"Give it a try. It will be worthwhile and it will be fun," he said.